

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

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IDAHO SMALL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS HONORED

The Idaho Small Business Solutions, a Web site for small business owners, is one of "America's Best Innovations" for 2001, according to The Council of State Governments. The Web site is one of eight national winners out of more than 350 applications. It was one of only two winners in the 14 western states. The Web site is the brainchild of the Reducing Idaho's Bureaucracy "RIB" Committee. The Idaho Department of Labor is a member of the committee and the development team. The Web site is invaluable to the small business owner trying to determine which local, state, and federal government agencies it is required to contact when opening a business. The address for the site is www.idahobizhelp.org.

State Overview

IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 5.6 PERCENT

Labor force details for the state, labor market areas, counties, and cities can be found in State Table 1 on page 3.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March was 5.6 percent, which is one-tenth of a percentage point above the 5.5 percent rate experienced in February and nine-tenths of a percentage point above the 4.7 percent experienced one year ago. Idaho's unemployment rate for March is slightly below the national rate of 5.7 percent, which is up two-tenths of a percentage point from February.

Idaho's labor force components changed slightly over the month. The *Civilian Labor Force*, at 693,600 persons in March, increased 0.1 percent. The number of persons unemployed, 38,900, increased by 800. The number of persons employed, 654,700, was unchanged from February.

It is important to put these changes in the labor force into perspective. Even through the tough times, the labor force has increased. From one year ago, the number of persons employed increased by 11,900 and the number of persons unemployed increased by 7,100. The increase in people working is nearly double the increase in people unemployed. As a result of the changes in the number of persons employed and unemployed, the labor force increased 2.8 percent, or 19,000, since March 2001.

AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment rates are calculated each month for eight Labor Market Areas (LMAs) in Idaho—Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Pocatello City MSA, Bonneville LMA, Cassia-Minidoka LMA, Idaho-Lewis LMA, Magic Valley LMA, Panhandle LMA, and Seaport LMA. State Table 1 on page 3 lists the counties included in each Labor Market Area.

The Idaho-Lewis LMA edged out the Panhandle LMA for the highest unemployment rate in March. Idaho-Lewis LMA reported a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.0 percent compared to the Panhandle LMA, which reported a rate of 8.8 percent. The Idaho-Lewis LMA has had the highest unemployment rate for a labor market area since June 1998 when the Cassia-Minidoka LMA had an unemployment rate of 9.4 percent, one-tenth of a percentage point higher. Prior to June 1998, it was April 1992 when an LMA had a higher unemployment rate – again the Cassia-Minidoka LMA, which reported a 10.3 percent unemployment rate compared to 10.2 percent for the Idaho-Lewis LMA. The smallest of Idaho's labor market areas is very dependent on natural resource industries, especially lumber and forestry.

The Bonneville LMA reported the lowest unemployment rate at 4.0 percent, down one-tenth of a percentage point from February. This LMA has reported the lowest rate since March 2001 when the state's largest labor market area, the Boise City MSA, had the lowest rate at 3.3 percent. The electronics industry began to experience major layoffs in late March 2001 in the Boise City MSA, thus having a negative impact on their unem-

ployment rate. Up until that time, the Boise City MSA had the lowest unemployment rate.

COUNTY LABOR FORCE

Of the 44 counties in the state, four experienced double-digit unemployment rates in March. The four counties are: Adams County at 12.7 percent, Clearwater County at 12.1 percent, Benewah County at 10.9 percent, and Shoshone County at 10.9 percent.

These four counties rely heavily on natural resource-based industries, mainly timber harvesting. Shoshone County's major industry is metal mining.

Eight counties reported an unemployment rate below 4.0 percent in March. The eight counties are: Madison County at 1.9 percent, Latah County at 3.3 percent, Butte County at 3.4 percent, Oneida County at 3.5 percent, Camas County at 3.6 percent, Bonneville County at 3.7 percent, Teton County at 3.7 percent, and Blaine County at 3.9 percent.

Agriculture

Farm employment in Idaho, at 29,640, increased 8.7 percent from February to March 2002, and increased 1.1 percent from March 2001. The gain occurred in *Hired Workers*, which increased 12.9 percent. Agricultural employment normally increases in March following the winter downturn which occurs in November before the harvest ends.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs continued to grow in March as the total number of jobs reached 561,300, up 0.8 percent. The number of jobs in March was 4,600 more than February but only 100 more than March 2001. *Service-Producing Industries* gained 3,500 jobs, month-over-month, whereas the *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 1,100 jobs. (For more information, see State Table 2 on page 5.)

Mining

Mining employment experienced no change in employment from February 2002 but was down 400 from March 2001 to 1,600 jobs. The number of jobs in *Mining*, particularly *Metal Mining*, is the lowest in the last 100 years. Whatever growth the *Mining* industry may experience will be in the *Nonmetal Mining* sector, which is a result of increased activity in the phosphate mines in eastern Idaho as the weather improves. The health of this sector is uncertain with the closure of Astaris LLC in December.

Construction

Construction reported the largest gain of jobs in *Goods-Producing Industries* during March. Employment, at 32,800, was up 1,500 from February, but down 1,300 from March 2001. Over fifty percent of the monthly increase of jobs was in *Special Trade Contractors* with 800 new jobs. *Heavy Construction* added 500 more jobs and *Building Construction* added 300 jobs. While the *Special Trade Contractors* sector had the largest increase from February, it experienced the largest loss from one year ago, down 1,000 jobs. *Heavy Construction* lost 400 jobs since March 2001. *Building Construction* was the only sector that has shown an increase, 100 jobs, from last year. The outlook for the current year is cautious. Most areas in the state are reporting a drop in commercial construction projections and only a few areas are reporting a growth in home construction activity.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing was the only *Goods-Producing Industry* that showed job losses from February, down 400.

Lumber & Woods Products lost 400 jobs for a 3.8 percent decrease in the number of jobs. However, this decrease is normal for this time of the year. The average February to March decrease since 1995 is 3.9 percent. The *Logging* sector is generally responsible for the decrease because loggers and their equipment are not allowed into the woods due to muddy

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Or to the Regional Labor Economists noted in each area news section.

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conditions. This year was no different as the 400 jobs lost in *Lumber & Wood Products* were all in *Logging*. *Logging* employment is estimated to decrease again in April, but will begin to rebound in May as the roads dry out. The lumber industry has lost nearly 900 jobs in the last year. The closure and downsizing of many of the state's saw-mills during 2001 resulted in a loss of 600 jobs. The additional 300 jobs lost over the year were in *Logging* and *Other Lumber & Wood Products*. These losses were offset slightly by a gain of 100 jobs in *Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes*, year-over-year.

Employment in the other *Manufacturing Durable Goods* sectors was essentially unchanged from February with employment changing by no more than 200 jobs in each of three sectors – two sectors gained 100 jobs while one sector lost 200 jobs. A significant change from one year ago occurred in *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components, exc. Computers* and *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* with a combined loss of 3,700 jobs. This loss accounted for 82 percent of the jobs lost in *Manufacturing Durable Goods*. Much has changed in Idaho's electronics industry in the past year. The American Electronics Association recently released their 2001 annual economic report on the high-tech industry at the national and state level. The association used 45 Standard Industrial Classification codes with the majority in *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components, exc. Computers* and *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment*. Other areas included communication services and software and computer related industries. The trade association ranked Idaho 34th in electronics employment and 23rd in electronics average wage. The state also ranked 14th in research and development per capita, 44th in venture capital investments, and 23rd in home Internet access. The report found that 61 of every 1,000 private sector workers in Idaho are employed by high-tech or electronic firms. Unfortunately, this may not be the current picture because the rankings were based on data released in 1999 and 2000. The average annual wage in the high-tech industry was \$52,084 compared to a private sector average annual wage of \$25,818. The loss of high paying jobs in Idaho during 2001 has had not only a negative impact on the economy but also on the Unemployment Insurance trust fund. The higher the wage base, the higher the unemployment benefits that must be paid out.

As with the *Durable Goods* sector, employment in *Manufacturing Nondurable Goods* remained unchanged. The numbers indicate a loss of 100 jobs in *Food Processing*, which was primarily due to a loss of jobs in *Sugar & Confectionery Products* as the sugar campaign came to an end. Significant jobs losses over the year occurred in *Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits & Vegetables; Printing, Publishing, & Allied Products*; and *Chemicals & Allied Products*.

Transportation, Communications, & Utilities

The loss of 500 jobs from March 2001 is the most noteworthy event in *Transportation, Communications, & Utilities*. The loss included 400 jobs in *Communications*. The job loss is due to layoffs at several call centers during the past

State Table 1: March 2002 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
Seaport LMA	34,300	1,470	4.3	32,830
Nez Perce County	22,920	1,000	4.4	21,920
Asotin County, WA	11,370	470	4.1	10,900
Boise City MSA	252,790	12,610	5.0	240,180
Ada County	182,660	8,100	4.4	174,560
Canyon County	70,140	4,510	6.4	65,630
Pocatello City MSA*	41,310	2,450	5.9	38,860
Bonneville LMA	81,570	3,240	4.0	78,330
Bingham County	22,210	1,010	4.5	21,200
Bonneville County	47,320	1,750	3.7	45,570
Butte County	1,615	55	3.4	1,560
Jefferson County	10,430	430	4.1	10,000
Cassia-Minidoka LMA	20,230	1,460	7.2	18,770
Cassia County	9,960	620	6.2	9,340
Minidoka County	10,270	840	8.2	9,430
Idaho-Lewis LMA	7,660	690	9.0	6,970
Idaho County	6,140	590	9.6	5,550
Lewis County	1,520	95	6.4	1,425
Panhandle LMA	92,950	8,150	8.8	84,800
Benewah County	4,580	500	10.9	4,080
Bonner County	18,050	1,490	8.2	16,560
Boundary County	4,650	370	8.0	4,280
Kootenai County	58,800	5,040	8.6	53,760
Shoshone County	6,880	750	10.9	6,130
Magic Valley LMA	51,650	2,350	4.6	49,300
Gooding County	7,190	300	4.2	6,890
Jerome County	9,650	420	4.4	9,230
Twin Falls County	34,820	1,630	4.7	33,190
Adams County	1,570	200	12.7	1,370
Bear Lake County	2,975	145	4.9	2,830
Blaine County	12,520	490	3.9	12,030
Boise County	2,465	125	5.1	2,340
Camas County	425	15	3.6	410
Caribou County	3,600	240	6.7	3,360
Clark County	800	30	4.0	770
Clearwater County	3,540	430	12.1	3,110
Custer County	2,180	180	8.2	2,000
Elmore County	10,040	660	6.6	9,380
Franklin County	5,220	230	4.4	4,990
Fremont County	4,960	300	6.0	4,660
Gem County	6,800	605	8.9	6,195
Latah County	15,070	500	3.3	14,570
Lemhi County	3,740	280	7.5	3,460
Lincoln County	2,100	115	5.5	1,985
Madison County	12,070	230	1.9	11,840
Oneida County	1,815	65	3.5	1,750
Owyhee County	4,255	215	5.1	4,040
Payette County	10,120	760	7.5	9,360
Power County	3,680	330	9.0	3,350
Teton County	4,000	150	3.7	3,850
Valley County	4,085	355	8.7	3,730
Washington County	4,570	360	7.9	4,210
State of Idaho	693,630	38,940	5.6	654,690
Idaho Cities				
Boise	115,480	4,930	4.3	110,550
Coeur d'Alene	20,730	1,340	6.0	19,390
Idaho Falls	29,280	1,090	3.7	28,190
Lewiston	19,610	750	3.8	18,860
Nampa	21,430	1,450	6.8	19,980
Pocatello	29,710	1,700	5.7	28,010
Twin Falls	18,220	870	4.8	17,350

* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

twelve months. The other 100 lost jobs were in *Transportation by Air*. The job loss in this sector is due to a slowdown in air traffic not only because of the events of September 11, but also a continuing slowdown in Idaho's tourist and convention activity.

Trade

Wholesale Trade employment increased in March as the *Farm-Product Raw Material* establishments were gearing up for the spring planting. These establishments have two busy seasons—the fall when they buy the crop being harvested and the spring when they sell the seed to be planted for the current year's crop. The raw materials are bought from the farmers in the fall to be sold to other farmers in the spring for planting. The variety of raw farm products includes beans, barley, grain, vegetable seed, potato seed, etc. Idaho is one of the major producers of seed in the country.

Retail Trade gained 1,100 jobs in March. A loss of 60 jobs in *Food Stores* and 40 jobs in *Miscellaneous Retail* were the only retail sectors reporting a job loss during March. *Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply, & Manufactured Home Dealers* added 400 jobs in March because the weather improved and everyone was eager to start their spring home improvement projects. *General Merchandise Stores* added 200 jobs, mostly in department stores where additional workers were hired to help with spring and Easter sales. The addition of 500 jobs in *Eating & Drinking Places* is a normal occurrence in the spring as drive-ins in the rural areas start opening for the summer season and other eating places generally experience an increase in activity beginning in the spring.

The number of jobs in *Retail Trade* decreased 1,300 from one year ago to 105,900 in March 2002. *Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply, & Manufactured Home Dealers* and *Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations* were the only sectors to report job gains from one year ago. Better weather and a desire by consumers to cut costs have increased the demand at local home improvement and garden stores thus increasing the number of jobs available. The addition of 100 new jobs in car dealers and gas stations continues to reflect the efforts of car dealers to sell their product and consumers apparent lack of worry about the rising cost of fuel. The loss of 300 jobs in the *Food Stores* sector is a result of the layoffs and reorganization of Albertson's food chain. Since the layoffs occurred primarily in August 2001, the job loss will be reflected in the year ago data for several more months. The largest loss of jobs occurred in *Miscellaneous Shopping Goods Stores* with nearly 700 jobs eliminated. This retail sector includes sporting goods, book stores, jewelry stores, toy stores, and gift shops. Most of these stores are small, locally owned establishments that are having a difficult time competing with national chains. This is always an ongoing struggle, but seems to have more of an impact when economic times are tough. When consumers have fewer dollars to spend, they look for the most economical purchase. Smaller stores cannot always purchase in bulk as larger chains can do, so it is difficult for the small stores to cut prices and still cover their costs.

Services

Services, at 152,000 jobs, accounted for 27 percent of March's nonfarm payroll. During March, 1,100 jobs were added. The job gain showed some seasonal influences as *Agriculture Services* and *Hotel & Other Lodging Places* added a total of 500 jobs. Field preparation resulted in more jobs in the agriculture sector. The lodging sector experienced increased activity not only from gearing up for the summer season but also the continuing great winter sports season. Other job increases occurred in the *Educational Services* and *Social Services* sectors.

Over the past 12 months, 4,700 new jobs have been added to *Services*. The growth was not across all sectors but occurred in *Business Services; Health Services; Social Services; and Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services*; each adding over 500 new jobs. Job losses occurred in two major sectors - *Hotel & Other Lodging Places* and *Personal Services*. The job loss in lodging places has been a result of not only the effects of September 11 but an overall decline in Idaho's tourist traffic.

Government

The increase in *Government* jobs was centered around activity in *State & Local Government*. The two *Education* sectors added 700 new jobs. The increase in *State Education* was due to additional temporary student workers hired in late February as part of the spring semester increase. Local school districts continued to add staff to meet the demands of the growing number of students. Besides teachers, the staff also includes support personnel such as cooks, aides, administrative office workers, coaches, etc. With the latest state budget cuts, the number of new jobs available will be reduced for the fall semester.

Nearly all of the job growth over the last year was in *Local Government* at more than 3,300 jobs. Overall, *Federal Government* added 100 jobs, *State Government Administration* added 200 jobs, and *Local Government Administration* added 1,200 jobs. Many of the new jobs in *Local Government Administration* are reflected in the growth of the casinos on the various Indian reservations. Tribal businesses are coded as local government entities.

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State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	March 2002*	Feb 2002	March 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	561,300	556,700	561,200	0.8	0.0
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	105,000	103,900	112,700	1.1	-6.8
Mining	1,600	1,600	2,000	0.0	-20.0
Metal Mining	500	500	1,000	0.0	-50.0
Construction	32,800	31,300	34,100	4.8	-3.8
Manufacturing	70,600	71,000	76,600	-0.6	-7.8
Durable Goods	43,000	43,400	47,500	-0.9	-9.5
Lumber & Wood Products	10,200	10,600	11,100	-3.8	-8.1
Logging	1,500	1,900	1,600	-21.1	-6.3
Sawmills & Planing Mills	4,000	4,000	4,600	0.0	-13.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,100	1,100	1,000	0.0	10.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	3,600	3,600	3,900	0.0	-7.7
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,600	1,500	1,400	6.7	14.3
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	2,900	2,900	3,000	0.0	-3.3
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	9,500	9,500	10,600	0.0	-10.4
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	12,900	13,100	15,500	-1.5	-16.8
Transportation Equipment	2,100	2,100	2,200	0.0	-4.5
Other Durable Goods	3,800	3,700	3,700	2.7	2.7
Nondurable Goods	27,600	27,600	29,100	0.0	-5.2
Food Processing	16,600	16,700	17,100	-0.6	-2.9
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	9,000	9,000	9,400	0.0	-4.3
Paper Products	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0	0.0
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	4,900	4,900	5,400	0.0	-9.3
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	2,400	0.0	-16.7
Other Nondurable Goods	2,000	1,900	2,100	5.3	-4.8
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	456,300	452,800	448,500	0.8	1.7
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	27,400	27,300	27,900	0.4	-1.8
Transportation	17,300	17,200	17,300	0.6	0.0
Railroad	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	10,200	10,200	10,100	0.0	1.0
Communications	6,200	6,200	6,600	0.0	-6.1
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	3,900	3,900	4,000	0.0	-2.5
Trade	137,700	136,300	139,000	1.0	-0.9
Wholesale Trade	31,800	31,500	31,800	1.0	0.0
Durable Goods	14,600	14,500	14,800	0.7	-1.4
Nondurable Goods	17,200	17,000	17,000	1.2	1.2
Retail Trade	105,900	104,800	107,200	1.0	-1.2
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	6,600	6,200	6,200	6.5	6.5
General Merchandise Stores	13,400	13,200	13,500	1.5	-0.7
Food Stores	18,200	18,300	18,500	-0.5	-1.6
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,000	11,900	11,900	0.8	0.8
Eating & Drinking Places	37,200	36,700	37,400	1.4	-0.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	24,500	24,500	23,600	0.0	3.8
Banking	7,400	7,400	7,200	0.0	2.8
Services	152,000	150,900	147,300	0.7	3.2
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7,600	7,400	8,000	2.7	-5.0
Personal Services	4,400	4,400	4,600	0.0	-4.3
Business Services	29,100	29,100	28,600	0.0	1.7
Amusement and Recreation Services	7,000	6,900	6,700	1.4	4.5
Health Services	40,000	39,900	37,400	0.3	7.0
Hospitals	13,800	13,900	12,700	-0.7	8.7
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	19,900	19,900	19,000	0.0	4.7
Government	114,700	113,800	110,700	0.8	3.6
Federal Government	12,300	12,200	12,200	0.8	0.8
State & Local Government	102,400	101,600	98,500	0.8	4.0
State Government	30,000	29,500	29,400	1.7	2.0
Education	14,900	14,500	14,500	2.8	2.8
Administration	15,100	15,000	14,900	0.7	1.3
Local Government	72,400	72,100	69,100	0.4	4.8
Education	41,400	41,100	40,200	0.7	3.0
Administration	31,000	31,000	28,900	0.0	7.3

* Preliminary Estimate

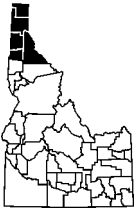
** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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State Table 3: Economic Indicators

				% Change From					
	March 2002	Feb 2002	March 2001	Last Month	Last Year				
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾									
Seasonally Adjusted									
Civilian Labor Force	693,600	692,800	674,600	0.1	2.8				
Unemployment	38,900	38,100	31,800	2.1	22.3				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	5.5	4.7						
Total Employment	654,700	654,700	642,800	0.0	1.9				
Unadjusted									
Civilian Labor Force	686,500	682,700	667,500	0.6	2.8				
Unemployment	44,600	46,300	37,600	-3.7	18.6				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	6.5	6.8	5.6						
Total Employment	641,900	636,400	629,900	0.9	1.9				
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	5.7	5.5	4.3						
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾									
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	174.7	173.7	172.6	0.6	1.2				
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	178.8	177.8	176.2	0.6	1.5				
AGRICULTURE									
Agriculture Employment	29,640	27,270	29,320	8.7	1.1				
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0				
Unpaid Family	430	370	430	16.2	0.0				
Hired Workers	20,200	17,890	19,880	12.9	1.6				
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE									
Claims Activities									
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	14,563	11,422	8,810	27.5	65.3				
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	116,788	119,406	82,282	-2.2	41.9				
Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾									
Weeks Compensated	101,775	102,352	71,951	-0.6	41.5				
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$22,886,001	\$22,907,425	\$15,401,747	-0.1	48.6				
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$224.87	\$223.81	\$214.06	0.5	5.0				
Covered Employers	39,945	39,862	39,867	0.2	0.2				
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$172,400,572	\$164,916,318	\$113,639,944	4.5	51.7				
(1) Preliminary Estimate									
(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics									
(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims									
(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent									
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities									
HOURS AND EARNINGS									
	Average Weekly Earnings*			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March 2002	Feb 2002	March 2001	March 2002	Feb 2002	March 2001	March 2002	Feb 2002	March 2001
Mining	\$649.50	\$609.11	\$585.10	38.5	36.3	36.5	\$16.87	\$16.78	\$16.03
Construction	\$561.66	\$563.31	\$590.64	33.0	32.3	36.8	\$17.02	\$17.44	\$16.05
Total Manufacturing	\$581.67	\$561.12	\$584.55	37.6	35.9	39.1	\$15.47	\$15.63	\$14.95
Lumber & Wood Products	\$533.25	\$550.55	\$479.07	36.3	37.3	35.2	\$14.69	\$14.76	\$13.61
Food & Kindred Products	\$447.26	\$439.57	\$460.20	38.0	36.6	39.3	\$11.77	\$12.01	\$11.71
Communications	\$842.83	\$848.90	\$748.43	43.4	43.4	42.5	\$19.42	\$19.56	\$17.61
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	\$831.66	\$842.50	\$878.33	38.7	38.7	39.6	\$21.49	\$21.77	\$22.18
Trade	\$321.46	\$319.22	\$324.17	28.6	28.3	29.1	\$11.24	\$11.28	\$11.14
Wholesale Trade	\$497.60	\$500.03	\$526.93	34.7	33.9	35.7	\$14.34	\$14.75	\$14.76
Retail Trade	\$272.77	\$269.88	\$270.99	26.9	26.8	27.4	\$10.14	\$10.07	\$9.89
DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS									
* These average earnings are computed on a gross basis and reflect changes in premium pay for overtime and late shift work as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive wage.									



PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

This spring, the Panhandle continued to experience a high level of joblessness as a result of the U.S. economic slowdown, as evidenced by its 8.8 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in March. *Manufacturing* has endured the largest job losses, losing 390 jobs since March 2001. Approximately half the job losses were in *Lumber & Wood Products*; the other half were in a variety of manufacturing industries especially electronics, fabricated metals, and publishing. The *Retail Trade* sector—stores, restaurants, bars, and other retailers—endured the second-largest number of job losses, losing 360 jobs. The recession caused consumers to reduce spending at stores and restaurants, resulted in fewer tourists visiting the region, and forced national catalog retailer Coldwater Creek to cut jobs in Bonner County. The *Mining* sector lost 300 jobs at silver mines, mining services companies, and mining companies' corporate headquarters since March 2001.

At the present times, glimmers of hope suggest that the region is emerging from the economic shadows of recent months.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Panhandle Population Growth Slows

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released population estimates for counties in July 2001. The populations of all Idaho counties at the time of the last census in April 2000 and in July 2001 are shown in FYI Table 1 on page 22. The populations of Panhandle counties are shown in Panhandle Table 2 on page 8, which compares the average growth per year in the 1990s to the growth between July 2000 and July 2001, and compares the growth rates in the Panhandle to the growth rates in Idaho and the U.S. The population growth in the Panhandle was exceptionally strong in the early 1990s when California's economic troubles, riot, earthquakes, and high cost of living persuaded many Californians to move to Idaho. During the last few years, troubles in the Panhandle's timber and mining industries caused population declines in some communities, especially in Shoshone and Benewah Counties.

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	March 2002*	Feb 2001	March 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	92,950	91,930	89,620	1.1	3.7
Unemployed	8,150	7,240	7,430	12.6	9.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.8	7.9	8.3		
Total Employment	84,800	84,690	82,190	0.1	3.2
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	92,120	90,600	88,880	1.7	3.6
Unemployed	10,630	9,670	9,950	9.9	3.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	11.5	10.7	11.2		
Total Employment	81,490	80,930	78,930	0.7	3.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	12,580	12,530	13,400	0.4	-6.1
Mining	540	530	840	1.9	-35.7
Construction	3,840	3,690	3,970	4.1	-3.3
Manufacturing	8,200	8,310	8,590	-1.3	-4.5
Lumber & Wood Products	3,790	3,960	3,990	-4.3	-5.0
All Other Manufacturing	4,410	4,350	4,600	1.4	-4.1
Service-Producing Industries	53,040	52,500	51,560	1.0	2.9
Transportation	1,330	1,350	1,320	-1.5	0.8
Communication & Utilities	1,080	1,060	1,100	1.9	-1.8
Wholesale Trade	2,140	2,090	2,130	2.4	0.5
Retail Trade	13,850	13,700	14,210	1.1	-2.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,700	2,710	2,500	-0.4	8.0
Service & Miscellaneous	17,390	17,170	16,020	1.3	8.6
Government Administration	8,940	8,810	8,580	1.5	4.2
Government Education	5,610	5,610	5,700	0.0	-1.6

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Benewah County

- The City of St. Maries recently received a \$500,000 grant to complete a \$2 million downtown improvement project. The city is installing new water and sewer pipes, sidewalks, paving, and streetlights. Timber Plus, the St. Maries economic development organization, started the downtown project two years ago. The city also received a \$190,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Transportation a couple of years ago to help with the downtown street improvements. Some of the improvements are funded by a \$170,000 LID (local improvement district) that downtown property owners approved last year.
- Benewah Community Hospital in St. Maries also received a \$390,000 grant to replace its 50-year-old surgery with a larger state-of-the-art surgery.
- Heyburn State Park, located along the southern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene and accessed by Highway 95 near Plummer, is purchasing an 87-passenger cruise boat after a successful trial last year when the park rented the boat to give cruises. The cruises drew large numbers of visitors who saw the park's historical and natural resource features from a new

Panhandle Table 2: Population Growth in Idaho Panhandle County Population Growth between 2000 & 2001 Compared to Average Year in 1990s

	Population July 2001	Population July 2000	Change 2000 - 2001	Net People Added 2000 - 2001
Panhandle	182,140	179,398	1.5%	2,742
Benewah Co.	8,995	9,198	-2.2%	-203
Bonner Co.	37,479	37,020	1.2%	459
Boundary Co.	9,926	9,918	0.1%	8
Kootenai Co.	112,297	109,525	2.5%	2,772
Shoshone Co.	13,443	13,737	-2.1%	-294
State of Idaho	1,321,006	1,299,258	1.7%	21,748
United States	284,796,887	282,124,631	0.9%	2,672,256

	Population April 2000	Population April 1990	Average Change Per Year 1990 - 2000	Net People Added Per Year 1990 - 2000
Panhandle	178,333	126,617	3.5%	5,172
Benewah Co.	9,171	7,937	1.5%	123
Bonner Co.	36,835	26,622	3.3%	1,021
Boundary Co.	9,871	8,332	1.7%	154
Kootenai Co.	108,685	69,795	4.5%	3,889
Shoshone Co.	13,771	13,931	-0.1%	-16
State of Idaho	1,293,953	1,006,734	2.5%	28,722
United States	281,421,906	248,765,170	1.2%	3,265,674

Source: US Census Bureau

perspective. This summer, the park's boat will offer cruises to Worley, Harrison, and St. Maries for special events including Mother's Day, the Benewah County Fair, Paul Bunyan Days in St. Maries, and Pig Out in the Park in Harrison. The boat also is available for private charters. Some cruises will provide meals prepared by local businesses. The park recently rebuilt the docks at its Rocky Point marina.

- Heyburn State Park also is preparing for an influx of visitors from the 71-mile Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes. The biking and hiking trail, built along an old railroad bed, runs northeast from Plummer to Mullan in Shoshone County near the Idaho-Montana border and bisects the park. Although the portion of the trail that runs through the park will not be completed until next year, the near completion of the trail is expected to draw some visitors this summer and many more in following years.
- The Pacific Northwest Fiber (PNF) strawboard manufacturing plant in Plummer shut down at the end of April, putting about 30 people out of work for an indefinite period. Poor market conditions for strawboard also forced PNF to delay a planned \$500,000 upgrade and expansion of the plant.

Kootenai County

- Three businesses recently opened in the landmark Wilson Pharmacy Building on the northeast corner of Third and Sherman in downtown Coeur d'Alene. Wilson Pharmacy was a fixture in downtown Coeur

d'Alene from 1904 to 1990. Then Wilson's Variety opened there, but closed in December 2001. The first tenant to open was Coeur d'Alene City Perc, a coffee house with a 1930s-motif and a complete espresso bar, occupying the rear and basement of the Wilson Pharmacy Building. The coffee house employs five people. Now operating in the east side of the building is the Timber Creek Café featuring a Northwest lodge look and an old-fashioned soda fountain. The café employs six people. Merging into the café is the showroom of Crossley's Fine Interiors. The upholsterer and furniture maker moved its showroom from 303 North Fourth Street into the west side of the Wilson building. Crossley's designs and custom-makes furniture and window treatments. The interior design store also sells draperies, bedding, accessories, and gifts. After the move, Crossley's will continue to operate its furniture and upholstery shop at its Fourth Street location. Crossley's plans to add more people to its current staff of seven.

- The Hot Rod Café at 1610 Schneidmiller Avenue in Post Falls is building a 13,000-square-foot expansion to provide more bar and banquet space. The expansion will be completed by June 1.
- Ziegler Lumber Co. is adding a 32,000-square-foot warehouse at the back of its 45,000-square-foot Ziggy's Building Materials store at 2121 North Highway 41 in Post Falls. The warehouse should be completed by the end of May.

Shoshone County

- As of April, the 102-year-old Sunshine Mine has no employees. Only a year and a half ago, the Sunshine employed more than 240 people making it Shoshone County's largest employer. The mine closed in February 2001, but eight employees remained to maintain the mine. Persistently low silver prices make it impossible to justify the large electricity bills required to operate the massive pumps that keep one of the world's deepest mines from flooding. With the pumps now turned off, the Sunshine slowly is filling up with water. Once a mine is flooded, it takes enormous amounts of money to pump it dry, so silver prices will have to rise much higher to allow the Sunshine to shine again. Only two silver mines remain open in Shoshone County—the Lucky Friday Mine with approximately 60 employees and the Galena Mine with more than 200 employees.

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SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March increased to 4.3 percent from February's rate of 4.1 percent, as shown in Seaport Table 1. In March 2001, the rate was 4.1 percent. Total employment decreased only 90 from February 2002 and 80 from March 2001. These small decreases year-over-year represent a 12-month trend of significant decreases. The good news is that employment was strong in March, which traditionally is a month when outdoor work is sluggish.

In March, Seaport's Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 310 jobs from February 2002; however, from March 2001 a decrease of 350 was recorded. Decreases from last year occurred in almost all industries. Only one industry, *Manufacturing*, posted an increase, though it was such a slight increase that it is barely recorded once the statistical rounding-up process takes place.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Population

The population in North Central Idaho (NCI) between July 2000 and July 2001 decreased 1.2 percent according to recently released data by the U.S. Bureau of Census (see FYI Table 1 on page 22). All five counties in NCI — Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce — recorded a decrease in population. The region's economic engine, Nez Perce County, generated a decrease of .7 percent. Nez Perce County slumped in growth rank to 32 out of 44 counties in Idaho. Because of high unemployment, sawmill closures, and depressed local economies, people are migrating out of the area. As a whole, Region 2 (NCI) has not participated in the strong population growth enjoyed by other regions in the state.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Clearwater County

- Clearwater Valley Hospital in Orofino will expand and remodel its emergency room area. Construction at the Orofino hospital is expected to take about one year and will start this

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington

	March 2002*	Feb 2002	March 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,290	34,320	34,330	-0.1	-0.1
Unemployment	1,470	1,400	1,420	5.0	3.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	4.1	4.1	0.2	-0.2
Total Employment	32,830	32,920	32,910	-0.3	-0.3
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,520	34,420	34,570	0.3	-0.1
Unemployment	1,750	1,800	1,710	-2.8	2.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	5.2	5.0	-0.2	0.0
Total Employment	32,780	32,620	32,860	0.5	-0.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	25,280	24,970	25,630	1.2	-1.4
Goods-Producing Industries	4,880	4,820	4,950	1.2	-1.4
Mining & Construction	1,150	1,090	1,260	5.5	-8.7
Manufacturing	3,730	3,730	3,690	0.0	1.1
Food Processing	70	70	100	0.0	-30.0
Lumber & Wood Products	690	700	690	-1.4	0.0
Paper Products	1,680	1,680	1,630	0.0	3.1
All Other Manufacturing	1,290	1,280	1,270	0.8	1.6
Service-Producing Industries	20,400	20,150	20,680	1.2	-1.4
Transportation	1,350	1,390	1,360	-2.9	-0.7
Communications & Utilities	290	280	300	3.6	-3.3
Wholesale Trade	910	900	940	1.1	-3.2
Retail Trade	4,790	4,680	4,970	2.4	-3.6
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,380	1,380	1,400	0.0	-1.4
Services	6,500	6,380	6,600	1.9	-1.5
Government Administration	2,700	2,730	2,530	-1.1	6.7
Government Education	2,480	2,410	2,580	2.9	-3.9
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

summer. "We will continue to provide patient care 24 hours a day, seven days a week during that time," said Casey Uhling, CEO. "That will extend our anticipated construction schedule, but patient care is our first priority." The ER will expand from one room and two bays to two rooms and four bays. The current area will be remodeled and expanded beyond where the existing ER entrance is located. Also included in the new construction will be a family waiting area and physician dictating space. Current plans call for two entrances — one for ambulances and one for foot traffic.

Idaho County

- Plans have been finalized for a California aircraft engine business, Day-Air, to relocate to the former Dye Machine Supply facility in Stockton. "It's a done deal," said company owner/president Ray Anderson. "We're fully expecting to be building engines there by the end of April." Anderson said they would be relocating up to 12 employees to Grangeville and hiring four or five from the area within the next six months. The company plans to hire mechanics and mechanic trainees

who, depending on experience, will earn \$8-\$12 an hour. Day-Air overhauls twin-row radial Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines. The company focuses on air attack aircraft, such as the DC 4 and 6 models, and the CL 215, which have operated out of the Grangeville air attack facility. Anderson's experience working in the area in the past was part of the reason he wanted to relocate the company. "I worked on air tankers in Grangeville about 15 years ago. I was very impressed with it then but I didn't have any idea that we'd be moving the shop up there then." Day-Air will move into two buildings, totaling 20,000-square feet, and will occupy three acres on North D Street, formerly occupied by Dye Machine Supply. Last November, Dye Machine Supply sold its equipment to Intermountain Machine and Fab, Inc., a company started by former Dye employee Roy Schumacher.

Latah County

- The enticement of an early retirement has convinced some staff and faculty members at the University of Idaho (UI) in Moscow and Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) in Lewiston to step down at the close of this academic year as the institutions, faced with severe budget cuts from the state, attempt to limit the number of layoffs. At UI, 76 faculty and 58 staff members have decided to accept early retirement packages. "We initiated the voluntary separation/retirement opportunities program with one objective," UI President Robert Hoover said. "We wanted to minimize the number of UI employees who would have to be laid off to meet our budget shortfall. It now appears we have achieved that objective. There will still be some layoffs, but not nearly as many as there would have been without the early retirement program." At LCSC, two faculty members and two staff members will retire this spring. Both institutions were hit hard by the Idaho Legislature's budget cuts to higher education and both plan to raise student fees next year by nearly 12 percent to make up more of the budget cuts.
- Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL) will grow for the 20th year in a row, expanding the Pullman plant and opening at least 42 new jobs on the Palouse. In addition, SEL will add at least 80 employees worldwide. Of the 42 jobs opening up in Pullman, half will be engineering positions; the company employs 635 people worldwide with 525 employees working in Pullman. The company's products are used in all 50 states and in 75 countries. SEL designs, manufactures, and installs protective relays for electric power lines. The relay systems protect power lines from damage in the event of a power surge, such as a lightning strike at a transformer. Without the protection devices, the transformers can potentially explode into flames, causing lengthy power outages. The company's product line also includes systems that identify where a problem has occurred

on the line, a feature that has proven useful in war-torn countries where repair crews have been kidnapped and even killed by terrorists as they searched along the power lines for service problems.

Lewis County

- U.S. Timber Company at Craigmont has closed, leaving about 20 people out of work. The mill cut boards, dried and planed rough-cut lumber, and offered dimensional wood cut for specific orders. U.S. Timber Company bought Channel Lumber Company of Craigmont in 1997. Channel Lumber Company dated back to 1958.

Nez Perce County

- The Lewiston School Board plans to cut \$1.3 million from its budget next year, resulting in layoffs of 8.5 to 10 staff positions and reductions in education programs throughout the district. "There are two factors working against the Lewiston School District," Superintendent Joy Rapp said. "We're seeing an enrollment decrease because of the economy in Lewiston and some of the layoffs at Potlatch. And then the revenue from the state is less than what we had budgeted for at the beginning of the year."
- The lock at Lower Granite Dam re-opened in April ahead of schedule. The lock has been closed to overhaul the downstream gates since January 28. The repairs have halted river traffic to the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley longer than any time since the dam was finished in 1975. Lower Granite is one of eight dams along the Snake and Columbia Rivers linking the western edge of Idaho to the Pacific Ocean.
- Merchandise to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial is becoming available to consumers and includes items from clothing to firearms. In April, 52 vendors, organizations, clubs, and federal agencies attended a one-week planning conference sponsored by the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial at Lewiston. The conference consisted of meetings and workshops for about 400 representatives from cities, states, and organizations involved in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Corps of Discovery's historic exploration of the American West. Vendors included the Nez Perce Tribe with cultural replicas, a banner and sign maker from Boise, Thomas Jefferson memorial gifts from Virginia, a Montana musician's compact discs, travel planners, a Lewis and Clark game, and Lewis and Clark foods from Oregon. Companies offering tours of the Lewis and Clark Trail by car or bicycle also attended.

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TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 5.0 percent for March 2002, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was down one-tenth of a percentage point from February's rate of 5.1 percent, and up one and seven-tenths of a percentage point from March 2001's rate of 3.3 percent. The number of individuals employed decreased from February to March by 100 individuals, while a decrease of 300 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 12,900 in February to 12,600 in March. The decrease in the number employed and the decrease in the number unemployed created a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 400 individuals from February to March 2002; year-over-year, there was a net increase of 7,100 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the February 2002 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: February 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	183,076	8,264	4.5	174,812
Adams	1,583	212	13.4	1,371
Boise	2,422	118	4.9	2,304
Canyon	70,251	4,597	6.5	65,654
Elmore	10,014	668	6.7	9,346
Gem	6,766	624	9.2	6,142
Owyhee	4,177	197	4.7	3,980
Payette	10,205	885	8.7	9,320
Valley	4,131	361	8.7	3,770
Washington	4,502	314	7.0	4,188
Statewide	693,632	38,941	5.6	654,691

About 1,800 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were added to the Boise City MSA between February and March 2002, which corresponds to a decrease of 900 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since March 2001. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a gain of 300 jobs month-over-month with the only job loss occurring in *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manu-*

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties**

	March 2002*	Feb 2002	March 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	252,800	253,200	245,700	-0.2	2.9
Unemployment	12,600	12,900	8,000	-2.3	57.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	5.1	3.3		
Total Employment	240,200	240,300	237,700	0.0	1.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	251,900	251,800	244,700	0.0	2.9
Unemployment	13,100	14,700	8,500	-10.9	54.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.2	5.8	3.5		
Total Employment	238,800	237,100	236,200	0.7	1.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	229,000	227,200	229,900	0.8	-0.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	50,200	49,900	54,000	0.6	-7.0
Construction & Mining	15,800	15,400	16,100	2.6	-1.9
Manufacturing	34,400	34,500	37,900	-0.3	-9.2
Durable Goods	26,200	26,300	29,500	-0.4	-11.2
Lumber & Wood Products	3,100	3,000	3,000	3.3	3.3
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,200	2,200	4.5	4.5
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Ind & Com Mach & Computer Equip	7,400	7,400	8,400	0.0	-11.9
Electronic & Other Elect Equip. & Comp	11,200	11,400	13,300	-1.8	-15.8
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	1,700	1,700	1,900	0.0	-10.5
Nondurable Goods	8,200	8,200	8,400	0.0	-2.4
Food & Kindred Products	5,500	5,500	5,600	0.0	-1.8
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	2,000	0.0	-5.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	178,800	177,300	175,900	0.8	1.6
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,000	12,000	12,400	0.0	-3.2
Transportation	6,800	6,800	6,900	0.0	-1.4
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Ser	5,200	5,200	5,500	0.0	-5.5
Trade	55,600	55,200	55,800	0.7	-0.4
Wholesale Trade	12,700	12,600	12,700	0.8	0.0
Durable Goods	7,800	7,800	7,800	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4,900	4,800	4,900	2.1	0.0
Retail Trade	42,900	42,600	43,100	0.7	-0.5
General Merchandise Stores	5,400	5,400	5,600	0.0	-3.6
Foods Stores	7,400	7,400	7,600	0.0	-2.6
Eating & Drinking Places	15,300	15,100	15,300	1.3	0.0
Other Retail Trade	14,800	14,700	14,600	0.7	1.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Services	11,700	11,600	11,300	0.9	3.5
Business Services	62,600	62,000	61,300	1.0	2.1
Health Services	14,000	14,000	15,200	0.0	-7.9
Hospitals	19,200	19,100	17,700	0.5	8.5
Eng, Acct., Res, Mngmt., & Related	9,200	9,100	8,100	1.1	13.6
Other Services	5,400	5,300	5,000	1.9	8.0
Government	24,000	23,600	23,400	1.7	2.6
Federal Government	36,900	36,500	35,100	1.1	5.1
State Government	5,200	5,200	5,000	0.0	4.0
Education	13,900	13,600	13,400	2.2	3.7
Administration	4,700	4,600	4,500	2.2	4.4
Local Government	9,200	9,000	8,900	2.2	3.4
Education	17,800	17,700	16,700	0.6	6.6
Administration	11,800	11,700	11,100	0.9	6.3
Administration	6,000	6,000	5,600	0.0	7.1

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

facturing (200) and job gains occurring in *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100) and *Mining & Construction* (400). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,800 jobs including losses in: *Mining & Construction* (300), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (1,000), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (2,100), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200), *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100) and *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products* (100). *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100) was the only *Goods-Producing Industry* to create an increase in employment over the year. The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

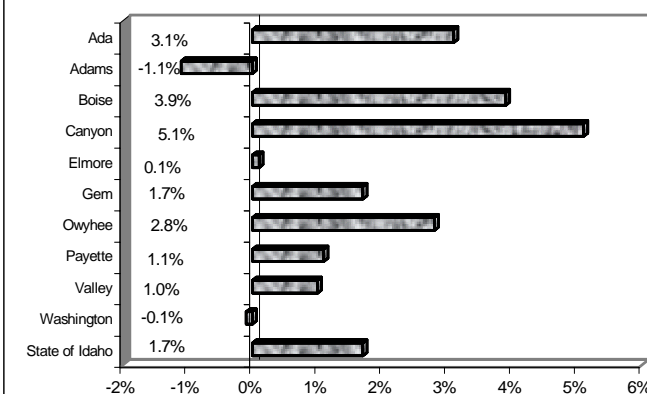
Service-Producing Industries gained 1,500 jobs between February and March 2002. No industry experienced a loss over the month, but increases were noted in *Nondurable Goods* (100), *Wholesale Trade* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (200), *Other Retail Trade* (100), *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* (100), *Health Services*, primarily *Hospitals* (100), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (100), *Other Services* (400), *State Government Education* (100), *State Government Administration* (200), and *Local Government Education* (100). Over the past year, there was an increase of 2,900 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with job gains in *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (400), *Health Services* (1,500), primarily *Hospitals* (1,100), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (400), *Other Services* (600), *Federal Government* (200), *State Government Education* (200), *State Government Administration* (300), *Local Government Education* (700), and *Local Government Administration* (400) outpacing job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (300), *General Merchandise Stores* (200), *Food Stores* (200), and *Business Services* (1,200).

SPECIAL TOPICS

2001 Population Update

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the 2001 population data, and Treasure Valley Figure 1 illustrates the percent change in population for all ten Southwest Idaho counties; the FYI section at the end of this newsletter shows the population data for 2000 and 2001 for all counties in the state (see FYI Table 2 on page 22). As shown in the Figure 1, all counties in Southwest Idaho showed an increase in population over the year, with the exception of Adams and Washington Counties. Ada County gained 9,446 residents over the year, or 3.1 percent; Adams County lost 39 residents, or 1.1 percent; Boise County gained 266 residents, or 3.9 percent; Canyon County gained 6,781 residents, or 5.1 percent; Elmore County gained 36 residents, or 0.1 percent; Gem County gained 257 residents, or 1.7 percent; Owyhee County gained 302 residents, or 2.8 percent; Payette County

Treasure Valley Figure 1: Percentage Population Growth 2000-2001



gained 223 residents, or 1.1 percent; Valley County gained 78 residents, or 1.0 percent; and Washington County lost 12 residents, or 0.1 percent over the year. The State of Idaho gained 21,748 residents over the year, or 1.7 percent, with 80.0 percent of the new individuals residing in Southwest Idaho; as of July 1, 2001, 42.1 percent of Idaho residents live in Southwest Idaho. In comparison with counties across the nation, Canyon and Boise Counties can be found on the 100 fastest growing counties in the nation, ranked 48 and 90, respectively (Teton County ranked 37 on that list), and of the 100 largest gaining counties, Ada County and Canyon County come in at 69 and 97, respectively, from growth occurring between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2001, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- WorkSOURCE and Centennial Job Corps will host the first annual Treasure Valley Youth Career Lift-Off on May 15 at the Job Corps facility, 2101 Ridgcrest Drive. The 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. event will feature exhibits from employers, educational institutions, government programs, nonprofit organizations, and many others sharing their employment opportunities, volunteer needs, services, and available programs. For more information, go to <http://jobcorps.doleta.gov>.
- EDS announced plans in early April to lay off 100 call center employees and release another 125 temporary workers in the Boise area when it moves some operations to a Canadian site. The layoffs will occur sometime before June. EDS made a statement that there were no plans to close any Boise facilities. The affected call center employees provided customer support for HP; although the contract will be honored, the support will come from an EDS site in Canada.
- Bruegger's Bagels sold its four Treasure Valley locations to local businessman Cliff Starman, who reopened three of them under the name Rocky Mountain Bagel Company. The fourth location, at 1113

Park Center Boulevard, was closed. Starman plans to open another store near Boise Towne Square within the year.

- St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center opened its new cancer clinic in early April. The new treatment center will allow St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) to provide radiation treatment to 25-30 patients per day, and will allow more cancer patients to get treatment closer to home. Now patients have the option of being treated in Meridian or at the downtown Boise location.
- Meridian Ice Skating Development Fund Inc., created in 2002, aims to raise money to construct an ice rink with two ice sheets. The group could build a temporary rink by fall 2002, but plans are to build a rink sometime in 2003. The group would need to raise \$1.5 million in addition to donated labor. Meridian's Parks and Recreation Department has already set aside two acres in Settlers Park as a potential location for the ice rink.
- In March, the Meridian City Council approved a proposal to build a 92-room Hampton Inn and two nearby office buildings near the Eagle Road exit of I-84. The three-story, 50,000-square-foot hotel is scheduled to open as early as late fall 2002. The two offices will have about 25,000-square feet, combined. Hampton Inn is a division of the Hilton Hotel chain.
- Extended Systems laid off 15 employees in Boise and 18 other employees worldwide in early April after an announcement to investors that the company won't meet revenue expectations for the first quarter of 2002. Analysts predict that the continuing technology slump will keep the company away from the "fast track back to profitability." Analysts also predict that technology spending will increase in the second half of the calendar year. The company still employs 175 people at the Boise facility and 291 people worldwide.
- Hewlett-Packard (HP) introduced two lightweight projectors in mid-April. The HP Digital Projector model xb31 offers the industry's leading brightness in the three-pound class at 1,500 lumens. Model xb21 is the lightest projector in the 1,000 lumens class and weighs just 2.2 pounds. The estimated prices for these models are \$3,699 for the xb31 and \$2,499 for the xb21. The official count has been released, and the HP-Compaq merger is now final. The votes were tallied and the newly merged company officially began trading on the NYSE on May 6, 2002 with HPQ as the ticker symbol. The launch for the new company was May 7, 2002.
- In early April, Micron Technology, Inc. lifted a 10-month hiring freeze and restored full pay to employees forced to take a 10 percent salary cut in fall 2001. Salaries for top executives are still docked by 20 percent, but the majority of workers have their

full pay restored. Analysts see the lifting of the hiring freeze as a big event for the Treasure Valley, as it is a sure sign that the recession is receding, or at least slowing down. Micron is the Treasure Valley's largest employer, and a number of persons are hired each month at the manufacturing facility in east Boise. Other area businesses were pleased about the announcement because when Micron is profitable, it pays its employees bonuses, which often is spent on big ticket items at Treasure Valley businesses. In related Micron Technology news, the proposed deal between Hynix and Micron ended in early May when Hynix board members rejected the plan and Micron announced that the company withdrew from the discussions because all parties involved could not reach a timely agreement.

- MicronPC recently secured a contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The contract allows the company to supply the agency's technology needs, including hardware, software, and networking products, for the next five years. MicronPC will share the contract with GTSI, Planet Gov and Compaq, and will share in the \$1.375 billion over the life of the contract. The company also posted its second consecutive profitable quarter, and executives at MicronPC are excited about the gains. After being purchased by Gores Technology, the company has started "focusing on selected segments and providing a superior level of service and support" that has proven to be the right approach for the company. The company plans to grow its share in government and small/medium business segments for the rest of 2002.
- ZiLOG reported its losses for 2001 at \$123.7 million, compared to a \$58.2 million loss in 2000; company officials ascribed the loss to lower sales. ZiLOG filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 on February 28 as part of a prepackaged reorganization plan in which its creditors will receive stock in exchange for canceling ZiLOG's debts.
- The city of Nampa announced that it will hire a public information officer in an effort to improve communication between city government and the community. The position will handle questions from the news media, conduct information campaigns, and act as a liaison between the mayor, city council members, and the general public. The \$42,702 salary for the position will come from two existing secretarial positions in the mayor's office that are not currently filled. The city is not taking additional applications for the position, although a final selection has not been made.

Adams County

- The Adams County Historical Society recently was granted a \$150,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Commerce's economic development pro-

gram for the renovation of the former railroad depot in New Meadows. The long-anticipated project will start this year. The money from the grant will be combined with the \$241,000 grant awarded in 1999 by the Idaho Transportation Department. The renovation project will include repairing the roof, renovating the exterior brickwork, extending the south wall of the depot's freight room and renovating the area into a 1,750-square-foot multipurpose area with a portable stage, and renovating the restrooms on the main floor. The project is expected to be completed sometime this year. The Adams County Historical Society is seeking additional grants totaling \$450,000 for the restoration of the rest of the depot.

Elmore County

- Excavation has begun on the Mountain Home railroad underpass project. The excavation should be completed by June and then construction of the bridge will start. The \$18 million project is expected to take 2 ½ years to complete.
- The Magic West processing plant in Glenns Ferry will be sold to Idahoan Foods of Lewisville. Roger Jones, owner of Magic Valley Foods and Magic West, Inc. announced in early April that an agreement was made on his intent to sell the Magic West plant in Glenns Ferry and the Magic Valley Foods plant in Rupert to Idahoan Foods. The sale of the two processing plants will allow Jones to focus more attention on two other area businesses: Carmela Winery in Glenns Ferry, and Quality Produce in Boise. No other information regarding Magic West was available.
- Construction is scheduled to begin on the new Mountain Home police station on May 15. The site of the new police station is located behind Wal-Mart on East Eighth North Street; the 9,100-square-foot, \$2,075,000 project is expected to take a year to complete.
- Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) has scheduled ten construction projects this summer totaling more than \$24 million. Six different contractors will be working on the projects that include resurfacing the runway, repaving the "transient" ramp located in front of the base operations, replacing the instrument landing system, performing environmental remediation on several sites, upgrading the airfield approach lighting, installing a new main sewer line around the north end of the runway, repairing a major drainage ditch, replacing a portion of Alpine Street, repairing a portion of the JP-8 fuel hydrant system, and replacing 135 slabs on taxiway Alpha. Enhanced security procedures, including rerouting traffic, will be established to help facilitate all of the construction efforts.

Gem County

- In late March the Gem County Jail Citizens' Committee proposed a new site for the new jail. The group considered five sites, but proposed that a new jail be located behind the Gem County Courthouse. There were several advantages to this site, including its proximity to the Gem County Sheriff's Department (eliminating the expense of replacing these offices), the proximity to the courthouse, already existing utilities, and the fact that the property already belongs to the county. One consideration is how the new jail facility would fit behind the courthouse in addition to the parking concerns that this would cause; however, the committee is certain that it won't be a problem. The Gem County Jail Citizens' committee meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Gem County Courthouse in Emmett.

Payette County

- El Tenampa Restaurant opened recently at Gayway Junction in Fruitland. The restaurant is located at 1619 North Whitley Drive, formerly Uncle Brian's Famous Pizza, and the facility has been completely remodeled. This is the fourth El Tenampa restaurant to open in the area with other restaurants located in Nampa, Meridian, and Horseshoe Bend.
- The Payette Valley Gardeners have started the Memorial Rose Garden expansion project. The Memorial Rose Garden is located in Payette's Central Park; the project includes enlarging the rose beds and adding a gazebo and benches. Part of the project will be funded by selling engraved bricks, which will be incorporated into the new garden design. The bricks cost \$35 and have room for 15 letters.

Valley County

- Steve Rosen of Troon Golf recently was hired to run day-to-day operations of the Shore Lodge and the new golf course. The latest plan for the resort is a part-private, part-public facility, where there will be membership fees. Paying guests of the Shore Lodge also will be able to use the golf course. Officials at the lodge expect the resort to open near June 1.

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MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Magic Valley Labor Market Area's (LMA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2002 was 4.5 percent. The March rate is up three-tenths of a percentage point from February 2002, and five-tenths of a percentage point higher than March 2001 as shown in Magic Valley Table 1. Year-over-year, *Civilian Labor Force* was 3.8 percent higher than in 2001 although down 0.4 percent from February 2002.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs rose a solid 1.7 percent from 2001. The areas that showed the strongest growth year-over-year was *Transportation, Communications, & Utilities* and *Services*, which have shown a 2.3 percent and 13.3 percent growth, respectively. For the first time in several months *Government-Education* has shown a decline. From February 2001, it declined 2.3 percent. It is probable that more declines in this area may occur due to tight budgets. Schools and colleges have used attrition and turnover to reduce staff but now expect to lay off teachers and faculty. The Twin Falls School District alone expects to lay off 13 teachers, and the College of Southern Idaho expects also to cut at least that many positions.

The economy of South Central Idaho continues to be strong. No new non-educational layoffs are on the horizon and this stimulates consumer spending and confidence. Inflation seems to be under control, and no large interest rate hikes are expected in the near future. Local consumers are still purchasing big ticket items such as cars and farm equipment. Agricultural outlook is better than it has been in many years, although there is some concern about water supplies for irrigation this summer. Four new retailers have opened in Twin Falls creating 200 new full- and part-time positions. Dell is continuing to expand its workforce. Record new housing starts in 2001 and a record pace in 2002 bode well for good construction jobs through the

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding counties

	March 2002*	Feb 2002	March 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	51,660	51,880	49,770	-0.4	3.8
Unemployment	2,350	2,170	1,990	8.3	17.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.5	4.2	4.0		
Total Employment	49,310	49,710	47,780	-0.8	3.2
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	50,390	50,070	48,540	0.6	3.8
Unemployment	2,520	2,610	2,170	-3.4	16.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	5.2	4.5		
Total Employment	47,870	47,460	46,370	0.9	3.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	6,630	6,700	6,850	-1.0	-3.2
Mining & Construction	1,680	1,770	1,700	-5.1	-1.2
Manufacturing	4,950	4,930	5,150	0.4	-3.9
Durable Goods	840	830	890	1.2	-5.6
Nondurable Goods	4,110	4,100	4,260	0.2	-3.5
Food Processing	3,120	3,110	3,210	0.3	-2.8
All Other Nondurable Goods	990	990	1,050	0.0	-5.7
Service-Producing Industries	31,990	31,830	31,110	0.5	2.8
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,650	2,650	2,590	0.0	2.3
Wholesale Trade	2,280	2,240	2,320	1.8	-1.7
Retail Trade	7,820	7,810	8,020	0.1	-2.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,330	1,290	1,350	3.1	-1.5
Services	10,340	10,290	9,130	0.5	13.3
Government Administration	3,750	3,750	3,790	0.0	-1.1
Government Education	3,820	3,800	3,910	0.5	-2.3

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

remainder of the year. Two more businesses will announce openings in Twin Falls and Jerome in the near future creating about 50 additional jobs. Overall, the economy of South Central Idaho is one of the hottest in the state and the future here looks promising.

SPECIAL TOPIC

2001 Census Information

New U.S. Census Bureau information released this month shows that South Central Idaho had a modest population increase of 975 persons or 0.6 percent, bringing the area total to 163,573. (See FYI Table 2 on page 22.) Blaine County showed the largest population increase of all of the counties with 699 new persons, or 72 percent of the entire population increase of the South Central Region. The relatively flat population growth was smaller than the year-by-year growth shown in most counties in the decade of the 1990's. For example, the percentage growth of Twin Falls County from 2000 to 2001 was 0.62 percent compared with an average 2.0

percent growth throughout the decade of the 1990's. Most counties showed an increase of net domestic out migration from 2000 to 2001, especially Minidoka County, which had a negative net domestic migration of 765 persons compared to a negative 151 the previous year. Jerome and Gooding Counties had negative net domestic migrations in 2001 compared to either near zero levels or positive levels the year before. The reasons for this are varied. The tremendous growth in Gooding and Jerome Counties pertaining to the dairy industry have flattened out a lot since new regulations and some saturation has occurred. While unemployment remains low in those areas, not many new jobs are being created and thus people are looking elsewhere for employment. In Minidoka County, low wages and high unemployment have caused people to look elsewhere for work. Family sizes tend to be higher and the population is younger in Minidoka County, and families have had to relocate in order to provide a living.

Another issue for most of South Central Idaho is low wages. The average wage in South Central Idaho is approximately \$10.00 per hour. In many families, both parents work and many people are multiple job-holders. Some families are relocating to areas with higher average wages. The flattened population curve also coincides with the beginning of a mild national recession in the United States. In a recession, populations are typically more restless and will move to where they perceive jobs to be.

Net international migration saw an increase of 779 persons in South Central Idaho. Many of these persons are migrant seasonal farm workers or resort workers under the H-2A or H-2B programs. Cassia and Minidoka Counties had a large number of international residents, however, Blaine County also had a large increase in international migrants. There are a couple reasons for Blaine County's increase. First, the international reputation of the Sun Valley Ski Resort attracts international residents who stay in the area. Second, the wages versus the cost-of-living in Sun Valley prohibits a lot of domestic workers from living in the area, and the resorts hire foreign nationals for much of the service sector work.

South Central Idaho is different from much of the U.S. demography in that births significantly outpace deaths. In 2000, there were 611 births compared to 321 deaths, while in 2002, there were 2,536 births compared to 1,373 deaths. Although there was a large increase in both categories in 2001, the ratio of deaths to births remained roughly the same. The overall picture with regard to population in South Central Idaho is that population is growing more slowly than in the 1990's and that the major source of that growth is in new births. There is some concern about out migration of residents, although there has been some early indication in 2002 that this might have slowed somewhat as job opportunities have become greater, especially in the Twin Falls area. If unemployment remains low and housing remains avail-

able, it is probable that South Central Idaho will continue slow, sustained growth in the next decade.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Twin Falls County

- Dell Computer Corporation announced that it will add 50 full-time customer service workers to its technical support facility in Twin Falls. Dell has begun recruitment immediately for these positions and the new hires will be on the payroll while training in May. These workers will start taking customers' telephone calls regarding billing, order-status and similar questions in mid- to late June. These workers will begin at \$7.50 per hour plus incentive pay and full benefits. This announcement does not affect Dell's announced intention of increasing its technical support employment at the Twin Falls facility to 450 workers. In fact, the customer-service workers may have the opportunity to be promoted to technical support workers as they progress in the company. Dell now employs over 300 technical support, supervisory, and administrative workers and expects to reach the 450-worker goal by year-end. The addition of 50 more customer service workers should raise Dell's workforce to 500 eventually.
- The North Canyon Rim project has four new retailers. T.J. Maxx, Old Navy, Famous Footwear, and Michael's recently held their grand openings and the stores are open for business. Between the four stores, approximately 200 full- and part-time employees have been hired.

Cassia and Minidoka Counties

- Rolland Jones announced the sale of Rupert's Magic Valley Foods, Inc. and Glenns Ferry's Magic West, Inc. to Idahoan Foods of Lewisville. The two facilities manufacture dehydrated potatoes and individually quick-frozen potatoes. The agreement incorporates all the assets — plants, trade names, Web site — of the two Jones companies, to the Idahoan Foods company. The sale does not affect other Rolland Jones companies in Rupert. The workers that had previously been laid off should return to work soon.
- A new Subway store will be built in Rupert on Idaho Highway 24 next to Tri-Circle, Inc., and across from Rolland Jones Potatoes. The new franchise is currently planning to hire a new manager and will begin the hiring process for the rest of the store's personnel in the near future.

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SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The national economic slowdown continues to influence Southeast Idaho's labor market. Table 1 shows that the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate crept up one-tenth of a percentage point in March 2002 to 5.9 percent. The number of unemployed individuals increased by 60, which drove the unemployment rate increase. The area's unemployment rate was three-tenths of a percentage point higher than the state rate, which was 5.6 percent. From one year ago, the unemployment rate increased 1.5 percentage points because of job losses in 2001. The number of unemployed individuals increased by 670 over the year.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 240 in March 2002 over February 2002 and totaled 33,240. Increased jobs occurred in most industries but *Construction* (60) and *Government Education* (90) added the most jobs. Month-over-month *Nonfarm Payroll Job* changes were within a normal range from February to March because construction activity begins to increase after winter and education jobs peak midway through spring semester. From one year ago, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* declined by 330. *Manufacturing* (360) and *Retail Trade* (240) accounted for most of the job losses. Most of the year-over-year jobs losses occurred as businesses adjusted to the slower economic pace.

SPECIAL TOPIC

2001 Population Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released July 2001 population estimates. The estimates show a continued shift of population from rural to urban areas as Ada, Boise, and Canyon Counties – all in the Boise area – experienced the highest population increases. In Southeast Idaho, three of the seven counties lost population from April 2000 to July 2001. Chart 1 on page 18 shows that Bannock, Bear Lake, and Power Counties suffered population declines while Bingham,

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	March 2002*	Feb 2002	March 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	41,310	41,370	40,380	-0.1	2.3
Unemployment	2,450	2,390	1,780	2.5	37.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.9	5.8	4.4		
Total Employment	38,860	38,980	38,600	-0.3	0.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	41,920	41,920	40,950	0.0	2.4
Unemployment	2,630	2,800	1,950	-6.1	34.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.3	6.7	4.8		
Total Employment	39,290	39,120	38,000	0.4	0.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	33,240	33,000	33,570	0.7	-1.0
Goods-Producing Industries	4,270	4,200	4,600	1.7	-7.2
Mining & Construction	1,700	1,640	1,670	3.7	1.8
Manufacturing	2,570	2,570	2,930	0.0	-12.3
Service-Producing Industries	28,970	28,790	28,980	0.6	0.0
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,720	1,740	1,710	-1.1	0.6
Wholesale Trade	1,420	1,400	1,460	1.4	-2.7
Retail Trade	6,730	6,730	6,970	0.0	-3.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,830	1,800	1,690	1.7	8.3
Services	8,060	8,020	8,060	0.5	0.0
Government Administration	3,390	3,370	3,330	0.6	1.8
Government Education	5,820	5,730	5,750	1.6	1.2

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Caribou, Franklin, and Oneida Counties experienced population increases. Population changes occur because of natural increases or decreases – the difference between births and deaths – and because of migration – the difference between people moving into and out of a county. The following summarizes population changes by county.

Bannock County lost 242 people from April 2000 to July 2001. Most losses were because natural increases (779) did not keep up with net migration (-992). Out-migration most likely occurred because of layoffs in 1999 at J.R. Simplot and the Union Pacific Railroad, and because college graduates had to leave the area to find suitable jobs.

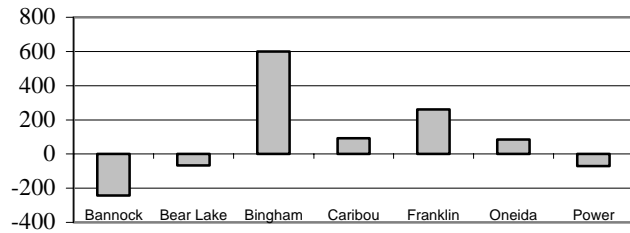
Bear Lake County lost 62 people from April 2000 to July 2001. Out-migration caused the decline in population caused by people leaving the county to find jobs.

Bingham County had the largest gain of population (600) between April 2000 and July 2001 of the seven southeast counties. Natural increases (435) and international migration (166) accounted for the increased population.

Caribou County gained 93 people from April 2000 to July 2001. Natural increases (56) and net migration (30) drove increased population.

Franklin County had the highest percentage increase (2.3 percent) in population from April 2000 to July 2001 and gained 261 people. Natural in

Chart 1: Population changes from April 2000—July 2001



creases (112) and net migration (137) contributed to the increase. People moved from Utah to Idaho to take advantage of affordable land and housing while being able to maintain their jobs in Utah.

Oneida County grew by 85 people from April 2000 to July 2001. Natural increases (40) and net migration (43) contributed to the gain in population. Many people who work along Utah's Wasatch front moved to Oneida County and commute to jobs in Utah.

Power County lost 70 people from April 2000 to July 2001. Net migration (-115) exceeded natural increases (60) to cause the decline in population.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

Bannock County

- Farm Bureau moved into their new 93,600-square foot facility in Pocatello. The \$13 million headquarters houses 174 employees. Construction began in 2000.
- Mystic Castle, a home-based gift shop, has opened a store at Station Square in Old Town Pocatello. The business features many creations from local artists.
- An amusement park, Amusement Acres, is being built near the Pocatello Airport. The facility will include a go-cart track, remote control car track, an arcade, an 18-hole miniature golf course, meeting pavilion, and concession stand. Owners hope to have the park open before Memorial Day.
- Bids have been let for the L.E. & Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center on the Idaho State University campus. Construction should begin in May and completion is expected in two years.
- Dudleys Bar and Restaurant in Old Town Pocatello closed in February. Closure of the business eliminated more than 20 jobs.
- Karen Lanes in Pocatello closed after 44 years in business. A decline in the popularity of league bowling is blamed for the closure. Employees at the

bowling alley likely will be offered jobs at the owner's other business, Tough Guy Lanes.

- J.R. Simplot's Don Plant will discontinue ammonia production and eliminate approximately 85 jobs. Nine jobs were eliminated in April and the remaining jobs will end in September or October 2002. The company has offered early retirement packages in an effort to avoid layoffs.

Bingham County

- First American Title Company of East Idaho broke ground on a second new office building in Blackfoot. The new 3,600-square-foot building will be located on West Pacific Street.
- Blackfoot Brass is building a new foundry building to house an automated production line for green sand molds. Upon completion, the company will hire an additional two to four workers.
- The Blackfoot Urban Renewal Agency received an Idaho Community Development Block Grant designed to eliminate slum and blight conditions and attract businesses to fill empty buildings in the downtown area. The \$400,000 grant will be used to improve curbs and gutters, replace pavement, upgrade sewer and water lines, and install new lighting, trees, benches, and bicycle racks.
- The Blackfoot Medical Clinic purchased the old Rite Aid store and is renovating it to house the clinic. The new facility will provide 46,000-square feet of space for full integration of services in one location. The renovation and relocation of the clinic's 100 employees should be complete by May 2002.

Oneida County

- Bids were let on the Oneida County Library addition. The 1,200-square-foot addition will be built on the south side of the current library facility. Construction is expected to begin as soon as a contractor has been selected.

Power County

- Direct Communications has opened an office in American Falls at 2842 Pocatello Avenue, Suite 102. The company's main business is in Rockland and its primary business is providing telephone exchange for Rockland and Paris. The store in American Falls will offer computer sales and service, telephones and accessories, and provide better service to telephone and Internet customers.

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NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) in March dropped one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous month to 4.0 percent. Increases in *Construction*, *Retail Trade*, and *Services* were able to help *Total Employment* grow after layoffs were experienced in the preceding fall and winter months. The decrease resulted from drops in the unemployment rates of Bingham (4.5 percent), Butte (3.4 percent), and Jefferson (4.1 percent) Counties as Bonneville County remained constant at 3.7 percent.

A year-over-year comparison shows an unchanged unemployment rate as both Bingham and Butte Counties decreased in their unemployment rate, but Bonneville and Jefferson Counties each increased one-tenth of a percentage point. These counties are still recovering from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) layoffs that only had a slight impact on the LMA as other expansions and entrants offset the larger potential impact. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, remained unchanged over the month at 3.7 percent, but increased one-tenth of a percentage point from March 2001.

Several of the counties in Northeast Idaho that are not part of the LMA saw monthly decreases. Clark County decreased 1.5 percentage points, the most of any county. Clark County still largely depends on agricultural activity, and land and crop preparation helped employment after a tough winter. Custer, Fremont, and Lemhi Counties also decreased in their unemployment rates. A year-over-year comparison shows that these four counties also decreased from March 2001, with Custer County decreasing 1.9 percentage points and Fremont and Lemhi Counties each decreasing over 1.0 percentage point. These decreases are a result of concentrated interest in economic development.

Madison County remained constant at the lowest unemployment rate in the state, 1.9 percent. However, it showed a decrease from March 2001 of five-tenths

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	March 2002*	Feb 2002	March 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	81,570	81,540	81,180	0.0	0.5
Unemployment	3,240	3,330	3,230	-2.7	0.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	4.1	4.0		
Total Employment	78,330	78,210	77,960	0.2	0.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	80,520	80,170	80,160	0.4	0.4
Unemployment	3,420	3,920	3,460	-12.8	-1.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	4.9	4.3		
Total Employment	77,110	76,250	76,700	1.1	0.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
Goods-Producing Industries	60,740	59,980	61,510	1.3	-1.3
Mining & Construction	8,760	8,530	8,850	2.7	-1.0
Manufacturing	3,860	3,600	3,530	7.2	9.3
Food Processing	4,900	4,930	5,320	-0.6	-7.9
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	2,370	2,460	2,930	-3.7	-19.1
All Other Manufacturing	530	500	460	6.0	15.2
Service-Producing Industries	2,000	1,970	1,930	1.5	3.6
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	51,980	51,450	52,660	1.0	-1.3
Wholesale Trade	2,310	2,290	2,340	0.9	-1.3
Retail Trade	5,340	5,270	5,810	1.3	-8.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,080	10,950	10,910	1.2	1.6
Services	1,910	1,890	1,850	1.1	3.2
Government Administration	20,680	20,480	20,930	1.0	-1.2
Government Education	5,070	5,020	5,250	1.0	-3.4
	5,590	5,550	5,570	0.7	0.4
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

of a percentage point. Much economic activity is taking place in Rexburg as the business park is attracting local and new employers and Brigham Young University-Idaho (BYU-I) continues to grow. Developers, university leaders, and city officials are working closely together to encourage organized growth in the town since the announcement of the two-year Ricks College conversion to the four-year BYU-I. Teton County increased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month but increased 1.2 percentage points from March 2001. Teton County is largely dependent on tourism that was somewhat affected by the national economic slump and September 2001 terrorist attacks.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 760 over the month. Increases in the *Goods-Producing Industries* occurred in *Mining and Construction* by 260 jobs as the weather began to allow some external activity. Losses in *Manufacturing* were slight (30 jobs) as *Food Processing* was somewhat affected by reduced activity in some fresh-pack plants as some farmers try to hold produce in storage for delivery later in the season. *Service-Producing Industries* showed a gain of 530 jobs over the month. Although all industries increased, *Services (Business Services)* and *Retail Trade (Eating & Drinking Establishments)* showed the larger increase at 200 and 130 jobs, respectively. Both of these industrial segments see increases as the snow starts to melt and all industries are in operation.

A year-over-year comparison showed almost the opposite results as *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased 770 jobs with both *Goods-Producing* and *Service-Producing Industries* showing decreases. Larger decreases were seen in *Manufacturing (Food Processing)*, and *Services (Engineering & Management)*. The *Food Processing* segment has been showing a loss for some time as automation of the equipment and fluctuations in the supply and demand of produce have been factors over the past several years. Layoffs at the INEEL caused the majority of the decrease in *Services* as a decrease of 500 jobs in the *Engineering & Management* was seen from March 2001. The full impact of these losses was not witnessed because of year-over-year gains in several other industrial segments including *Health Services*, *Social Services*, *Auto Repair & Gas Stations*, and *Business Services*.

A year-over-year increase in *Construction* is promising along with an increase in *Retail Trade*. *Construction* has been showing a steady increase for several years as lower interest rates and programs for first time buyers is enticing, and these changes have caused a chain reaction in buying and selling. Of course, developers are taking advantage of the opportunity by creating new subdivisions in Bingham, Bonneville, and Jefferson Counties.

SPECIAL TOPIC

2001 Population Estimates

Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau show that the 2001 population for the LMA grew by 2,265 from the official 2000 count (see Northeast Table 2 below). It should be noted that net migration in the table is the sum of net domestic migration and net international migration. The LMA showed a decrease in net domestic migration of 108 but an increase in net international migration of 427. Births exceeded deaths by 1,499. Northeast Idaho grew in population by 1,647. Of that, net domestic migration showed a decrease of 756 while net international migration showed an increase of 394; bringing about a decrease in total net migration of 362. The Northeast Idaho area showed that births exceeded deaths by 1,654.

Northeast Table 2: County Population Estimates & Demographic Data - July 1, 2001

County	4/1/2000 Population	7/1/2000 Population	7/1/2001 Population	Net Migration	Births	Deaths
Bingham	41,735	41,815	42,335	97	720	285
Bonneville	82,522	82,859	83,807	145	1,390	559
Butte	2,899	2,896	2,856	-50	43	34
Jefferson	19,155	19,233	19,578	127	337	113
Bonneville LMA*	146,311	146,803	148,576	319	2,490	991
Clark	1,022	1,027	971	-68	20	10
Custer	4,342	4,338	4,292	-55	48	39
Fremont	11,819	11,789	11,822	-95	212	85
Lemhi	7,806	7,744	7,606	-110	70	98
Madison	27,467	27,423	27,327	-499	490	94
Teton	5,999	6,095	6,419	243	110	34
Northeast Total**	163,031	163,404	164,678	-362	2,720	1,066

*Includes Bingham, Bonneville, Butte and Jefferson Counties

**Includes Bonneville, Butte, Jefferson, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties

Source: Population Estimates Branch, U.S. Census Bureau, April 29, 2001

Several counties were noted for increases. Bonneville added the most from the ten counties, at 1,285. Of that, 162 were net international migration compared to a loss in net domestic migration of 17. Births exceeded deaths by 831. Bingham added 600 people; 166 from net international migration. Births exceeded deaths by 435. Jefferson County added 423 in population; 31 from net domestic migration and 96 from net international migration. Births exceeded deaths by 224. Teton County added 420 in population; 203 from net domestic migration and 40 from net international migration. Births exceeded deaths by 76. Teton and Jefferson Counties were the only counties to show gains in net domestic migration over the time period. Fremont showed a gain of 3 in population. Births exceeded deaths by 127.

Decreases were seen in the remaining counties, more notably in Lemhi and Madison Counties at 200 and 140, respectively. Lemhi County experienced mining layoffs/closures and destructive fires during the time period, but economic development remains a concentrated effort in the county as it continues to see new businesses opening and expanding. Madison County continues to be difficult to count with student turnover and constant movement in the university sector. Although the county shows a decline in the numbers, much of that can be attributed to net domestic migration that showed a decrease of 533. This would imply that some county residents have moved from the county for a myriad of reasons while net international migration showed a gain of 34. As noted, births greatly exceeded deaths by almost 400. Madison County is seeing economic growth and movement as it stays devoted to economic development.

Butte County showed a decrease in population of 43, mostly from net domestic migration. Births exceeded deaths by 9. Clark County showed a population decrease of 51 with net domestic migration bringing the numbers down. Births exceeded deaths by 10. And lastly, Custer County showed a population decrease of 50; again net domestic migration played the part. Births exceeded deaths by 9.

Although the numbers are indicators of movement in the area, it is important to note that many variables play a part. Those counties concentrated in economic development don't necessarily show positive numbers, but the numbers could be a lot worse without this effort. Rural areas are taking advantage of many incentives and training throughout the state to help their communities grow to be a lasting part of Idaho's economy. Their efforts are noticeable and making a difference for many people in the community who have vowed to stay and be part of the changes. Many changes will yet be seen as the LMA and Northeast Idaho area continue to valiantly push forward for the good of the state.

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COUNTY POPULATION UPDATE

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released its interim population estimates for Idaho and its 44 counties. The new estimates are for July 1, 2001 and use 2000 census population data as the baseline. The new estimates for Idaho, and by individual counties, are shown in FYI Table 1 on page 22.

The U.S. Census Bureau uses vital statistics data and information from a variety of sources, such as tax information, to determine births, deaths, in-migration, and out-migration to develop the estimates. Members of the military are counted if their duty station is within Idaho. Some military members are considered living in group quarters, i.e., barracks, as do other people residing in nursing homes, college dormitories, prisons, and similar quarters. Residents of group quarters are included in the estimates even though technically some are legal residents of other states and countries.

Population Growth

Between July 1, 2000 and July 1, 2001, 26 counties had population gains but the other 18 counties lost population. The state's total population increased by 1.7 percent. This is the lowest statewide growth rate for Idaho in the 1991-2001 ten-year period.

The state gained 21,748 persons between July 1, 2000 and July 1, 2001 and just three counties—Ada, Canyon, and Kootenai—accounted for 87 percent of the state's growth. These three counties contained 43 percent of the state's population as of July 1, 2001. The same dynamic holds if the change is calculated from April 1, 2000 (the Decennial Census date); the Boise MSA accounted for over 73 percent of Idaho's growth. When Kootenai County's growth is added, that brings the percentage to over 86 percent of the total growth. These numbers are much higher than the trend for the 1990s when the population growth concentration was 61 percent for the decade.

Population Decline

Most of the 18 counties with population losses between July 1, 2000 and July 1, 2001 are rural with resource-based economies. Clark, Clearwater, and Lewis Counties had a decline rate in excess of 3 percent. Three counties with population losses—Bannock, Latah, and Madison—are the homes of a large college or university. Besides fluctuating enrollments, migration estimates in college locations are difficult to statistically model, partially because of the way households and dorm residents are counted.

Population losses arise for a variety of reasons. Some of the common ones are people moving for economic, educational, or personal reasons, declines in in-migration to these areas, and deaths exceeding births. Some of the

declines are small numerically, but because the county's population is small, it can result in a significant percentage loss. Some of the decline in one Idaho county results in population growth in another Idaho county.

Some Population Rankings

- Ada County continues to be the most populous Idaho county and also had the largest numerical increase.
- Teton County had the largest percentage increase from July 1, 2000 as well as from the 2000 Census.
- Canyon County had the largest percentage increase from April 1, 2000 and the second largest since July 1, 2000. It also had the second largest numerical increase in both time periods.
- Clark County is the least populous county. It also had the highest population decline rate in each time period.
- There are only six counties with a population of 50,000 or more. This population level is a common definition for an "urban" area. Nearly 60 percent of the state's population lives in these six counties, which are Ada, Bannock, Bonneville, Canyon, Kootenai, and Twin Falls Counties.
- Eight Idaho counties have a population of less than 5,000. Seven of these counties are located south of the Salmon River with Lewis County the exception.

Components of Population Change

The U.S. Census Bureau released estimates of what components caused the change in state populations. FYI Table 2 shows the primary change components and numerical data for July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2001. National and surrounding states' data is included for comparison purposes. (Rounding and estimating models produce numbers that are slightly non-additive to the total population change listed in FYI Table 1.)

Both nationally and within Idaho, births outnumbered deaths by about two to one. Idaho attracted nearly 8,500 people from other states and almost 3,000 from other countries. International immigration is allowed for work, education, and other immigration/naturalization reasons. The alien work certification process generally requires employers to first recruit U.S. citizens for the job, and prevailing wage rates must be paid. Domestic migration between states occurs for a variety of reasons but job opportunities and quality of life assets have been major Idaho attractions for movers.

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FYI Table 1: Population Estimates by County: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2001

	July 1, 2001	July 1, 2000	April 1, 2000	Percent Change July 2000 - July 2001	Percent Change April 2000 - July 2001	Number Change July 2000 - July 2001	Number Change April 2000 - July 2001
State	1,321,006	1,299,258	1,293,953	1.7%	2.1%	21,748	27,053
Ada	312,337	302,891	300,904	3.1%	3.8%	9,446	11,433
Adams	3,428	3,467	3,476	-1.1%	-1.4%	-39	-48
Bannock	75,323	75,536	75,565	-0.3%	-0.3%	-213	-242
Bear Lake	6,345	6,413	6,411	-1.1%	-1.0%	-68	-66
Benewah	8,995	9,198	9,171	-2.2%	-1.9%	-203	-176
Bingham	42,335	41,815	41,735	1.2%	1.4%	520	600
Blaine	19,798	19,099	18,991	3.7%	4.2%	699	807
Boise	7,011	6,745	6,670	3.9%	5.1%	266	341
Bonner	37,479	37,020	36,835	1.2%	1.7%	459	644
Bonneville	83,807	82,859	82,522	1.1%	1.6%	948	1,285
Boundary	9,926	9,918	9,871	0.1%	0.6%	8	55
Butte	2,856	2,896	2,899	-1.4%	-1.5%	-40	-43
Camas	1,002	981	991	2.1%	1.1%	21	11
Canyon	139,821	133,040	131,441	5.1%	6.4%	6,781	8,380
Caribou	7,397	7,312	7,304	1.2%	1.3%	85	93
Cassia	21,577	21,408	21,416	0.8%	0.8%	169	161
Clark	971	1,027	1,022	-5.5%	-5.0%	-56	-51
Clearwater	8,544	8,891	8,930	-3.9%	-4.3%	-347	-386
Custer	4,292	4,338	4,342	-1.1%	-1.2%	-46	-50
Elmore	29,157	29,121	29,130	0.1%	0.1%	36	27
Franklin	11,590	11,370	11,329	1.9%	2.3%	220	261
Fremont	11,822	11,789	11,819	0.3%	0.0%	33	3
Gem	15,482	15,225	15,181	1.7%	2.0%	257	301
Gooding	14,207	14,190	14,155	0.1%	0.4%	17	52
Idaho	15,423	15,468	15,511	-0.3%	-0.6%	-45	-88
Jefferson	19,578	19,233	19,155	1.8%	2.2%	345	423
Jerome	18,449	18,418	18,342	0.2%	0.6%	31	107
Kootenai	112,297	109,525	108,685	2.5%	3.3%	2,772	3,612
Latah	34,476	34,850	34,935	-1.1%	-1.3%	-374	-459
Lemhi	7,606	7,744	7,806	-1.8%	-2.6%	-138	-200
Lewis	3,625	3,741	3,747	-3.1%	-3.3%	-116	-122
Lincoln	4,132	4,057	4,044	1.8%	2.2%	75	88
Madison	27,327	27,423	27,467	-0.4%	-0.5%	-96	-140
Minidoka	19,677	20,116	20,174	-2.2%	-2.5%	-439	-497
Nez Perce	37,095	37,375	37,410	-0.7%	-0.8%	-280	-315
Oneida	4,210	4,126	4,125	2.0%	2.1%	84	85
Owyhee	11,008	10,706	10,644	2.8%	3.4%	302	364
Payette	20,868	20,645	20,578	1.1%	1.4%	223	290
Power	7,468	7,515	7,538	-0.6%	-0.9%	-47	-70
Shoshone	13,443	13,737	13,771	-2.1%	-2.4%	-294	-328
Teton	6,419	6,095	5,999	5.3%	7.0%	324	420
Twin Falls	64,731	64,329	64,284	0.6%	0.7%	402	447
Valley	7,716	7,638	7,651	1.0%	0.8%	78	65
Washington	9,956	9,968	9,977	-0.1%	-0.2%	-12	-21

Source: US Census Bureau. April 29, 2002

IDAHO'S UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAX RATES — A COMPARISON TO NEIGHBORING STATES

Idaho UI Tax Rate

Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits paid to unemployed workers are paid from a trust fund. This trust fund is financed solely from taxes that employers pay for their workers. Every state has a UI benefit program that is financed by an employer tax. In Idaho, the tax amount an individual employer pays is determined by three factors: (1) The historical differences between what the individual employer has paid in taxes and the amount of benefits paid to his or her laid-off workers. This process is called the experience rating system and establishes an employer's assigned tax rate; (2) the taxable wage base in effect; and (3) the tax rate schedule in effect. A taxable wage base is the limit on each individual worker's wages that the assigned tax rate is applied against. For 2002, the taxable wage base in Idaho was \$27,600, and the current tax rate schedule is Schedule II with tax rates varying from 0.2 percent to 5.4 percent.

FYI Figure 1 on page 24 shows Idaho's average tax rate from 1992 through 2002 and the corresponding taxable wage base. The tax rates shown are the average tax rate based upon total employer wages and the average tax rate based upon taxable wages (the rate applied after the taxable wage base is taken into consideration). Figure 1 also shows the taxable wage base during this period (right scale).

This data reveals that both the tax rate on total wages and the tax rate on taxable wages for Idaho have remained constant from 1998 thorough 2002 — 0.8% of total wages and 1.2% of taxable wages. However, the taxable wage base has shown growth over the entire period. This is because the taxable wages base is indexed to annual average wages in covered employment.

COMPARISON TO NEIGHBORING STATES

FYI Figure 2 on page 24 compares Idaho's estimated data for rate year 2002 to the six contiguous states. Idaho's 0.77% effective tax rate is significantly lower than both Oregon and Washington and is the same as Nevada's. The effective tax rates for Montana (0.7%), Utah (0.46%), and Wyoming (0.38%) are only marginally lower than Idaho's rate. These differences are not substantial. Idaho's tax rates compare quite favorably with its neighboring states.

The tax rates on the table should be viewed with caution. In reality, the only valid method of comparing the states is to consider only the tax rates based upon total wages, which is called the "effective tax rate." The effective tax rate takes into consideration the differences

in the tax laws of the states being compared, the differences in industry mix, the differences in taxable wage bases, and other considerations.

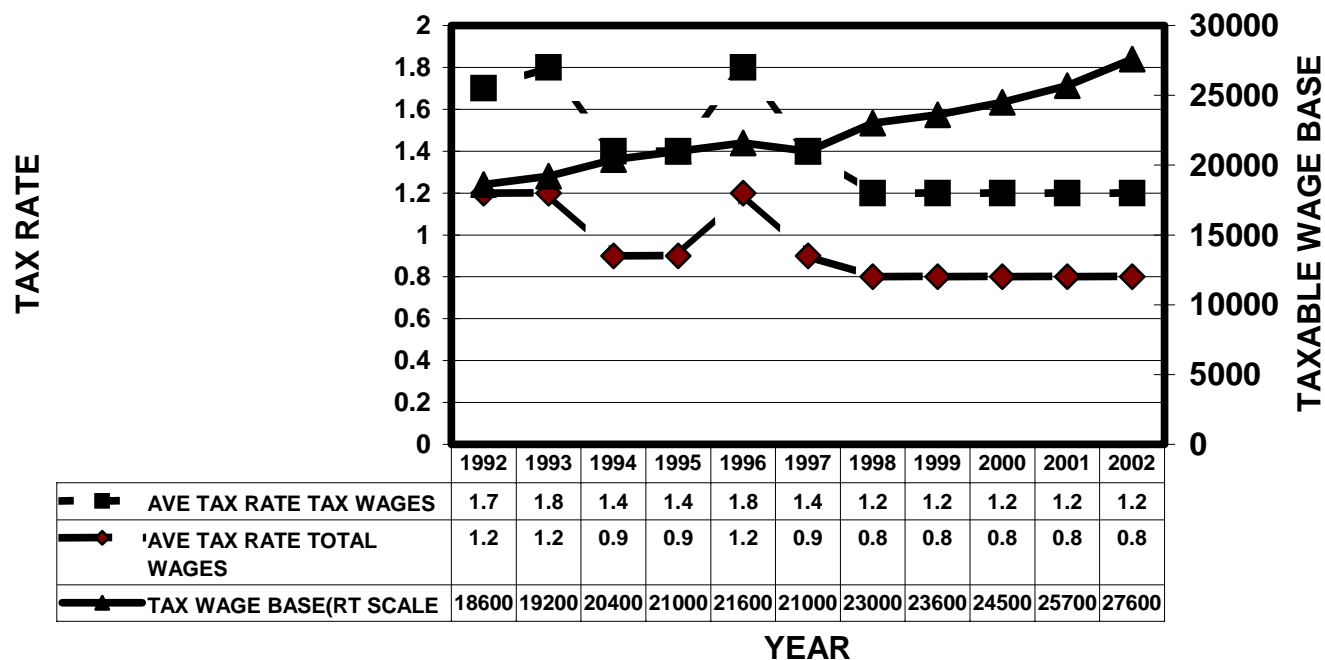
Figure 2 also reveals that Idaho has the highest taxable wage base at \$27,600, followed closely by Washington at \$26,600 and Oregon at \$25,000. The lowest taxable wage base is Wyoming at \$14,100.

When comparing taxes that employers pay in the various states, there are many variables that must be taken into consideration not only on the tax side of the equation, but also on the benefit payment side of the equation. For one reason, benefits payments in any state may be considered either more liberal or more conservative in comparing individual state unemployment insurance programs. Equally important on the benefit payment side is the insured unemployment rate which is the percentage of covered workers receiving UI benefits. After all is taken into consideration, tax burdens in each state are levied on employers solely for the purpose of financing benefit payments — certainly a most significant fact in comparing tax rates. Tax rates and taxable wage bases, by necessity, must be able to result in any state's unemployment trust fund being able to be solvent enough to meet the demands placed upon it by a business cycle downturn.

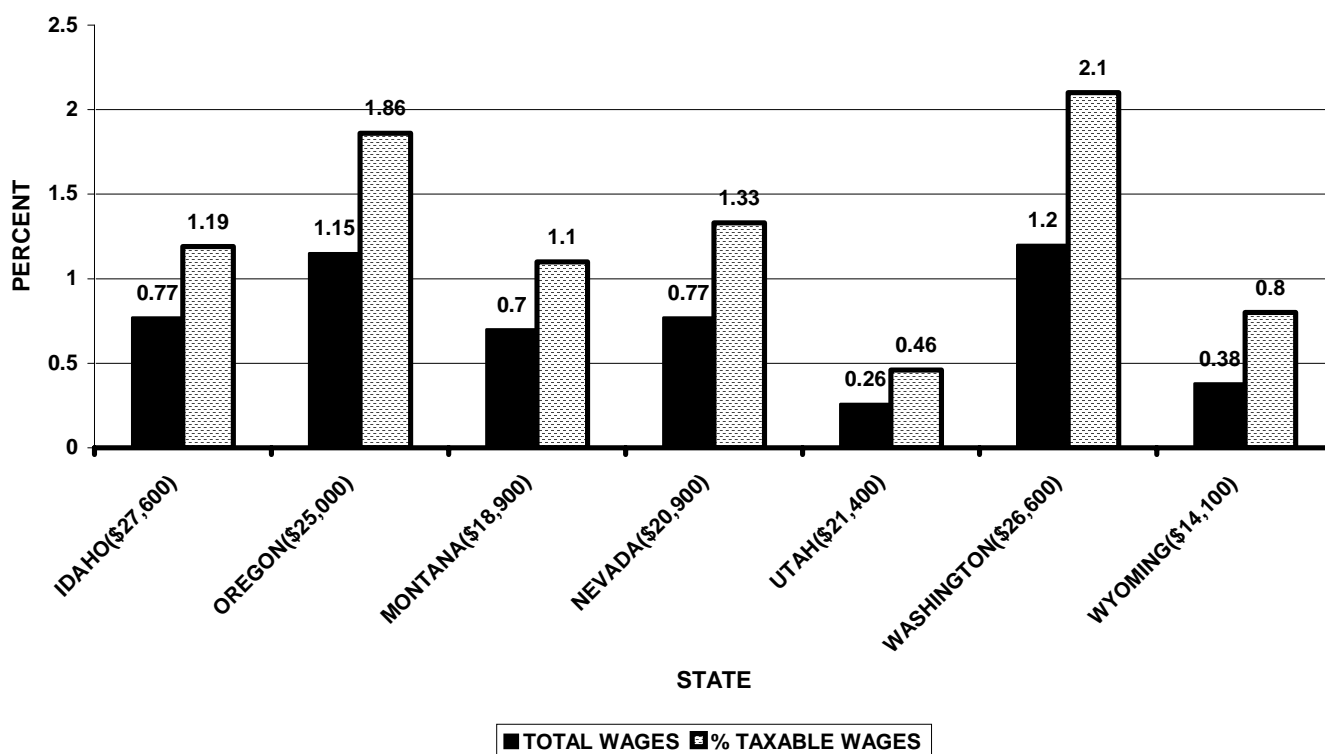
For a detailed description of Idaho's Unemployment program and its financing mechanisms, go to the Idaho Department of Labor's Internet Web site at <http://www.labor.state.id.us/> and click on the Unemployment Insurance link.

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FYI Figure 1: Average Idaho Tax Rates
(Total and Taxable & Taxable Wage Base [Right Scale] — 1992—2002)



FYI Figure 2: Estimates of Taxable & Total Tax Rates for Idaho & Contiguous States — Rate Year 2002
(Taxable Wage Base in Parentheses)



Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Labor Market Area (LMA): An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.